



#21
Shenoi C
att
RECEIVED
DEC 05 2002
PATENT TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Attorney's Docket No. 5051-425

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Robertson
Serial No.: 09/281,528
Filed: March 30, 1999
For: *Method of suppressing gene expression in plants*

Examiner: S. Kaushal
Group Art Unit: 1636

November 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is responsive to the final Office Action mailed June 26, 2002 regarding the above-referenced patent application. A Petition for Extension of Time and Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 are enclosed. Please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. An Appendix entitled "Marked-up Version Showing Changes Made" is attached hereto.

-
- C 1. (Thrice Amended) A geminivirus silencing vector comprising a geminivirus genome comprising:
- the geminivirus AL1, AL2 and AL3 coding sequences,
 - heterologous DNA, said heterologous DNA comprising at least a fragment of a gene endogenous to a plant that occurs naturally in the plant genome,
 - wherein said heterologous DNA is constitutively expressed and said AL1, AL2 and AL3 coding sequences are bidirectionally transcribed from said geminivirus silencing vector, and
 - wherein said geminivirus silencing vector silences expression of the endogenous plant gene upon introduction into a plant cell.
-